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Die Welt, October 16, on basis AP release reported following re Spandau prison:

Soviet Embassy spokesman in East Berlin opined there is at present little chance that the three last prisoners in Spandau prison, Rudolf Hess, Baldur von Schirach and Albert Speer will be prematurely released.

Soviet spokesman commented that this problem cannot be considered apart from the entire political development in West Germany. The appearance of "military" elements in the Federal Republic was hardly conducive for Soviet approval of such a move. "Certainly we will not take the initiative", he noted.

However the official added that the Soviets are prepared to negotiate with the Western Powers for a reduction in the costs of the Spandau prison which currently amount to DM 250,000 per annum and are paid by the city of Berlin.

GUFLER

AUTH: P BURNS, JR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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